

IN SENATE AND HOUSE.

Agricultural and Postoffice Appropriation Bills in the Senate—River and Harbor and Naval Appropriation Bills in the House.

In the senate yesterday the Des Moines river settlement bill was brought up, and Mr. Lapham occupied the time until 1 o'clock, when Mr. Merrill called up the anti-slavery postage bill, which, although antagonized by the agricultural appropriation bill, in charge of Mr. Hale, was taken up. Subsequently the agricultural bill was taken up, and some debate on the bill passed substantially as it came from the committee, the item for the enticement of songbirds being increased from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

The postoffice appropriation bill was then taken up. In his remarks in defense of the committee's amendment reducing the amount for clerks, Mr. Lapham said the sum of \$30,000. Mr. Plumb said the expenses of the government could be reduced by \$60,000 annually without hurt to the public service.

A considerable portion of the speech that letters he charged 2 cents an ounce, instead of 2 cents a house, drew laughter (where there is no free delivery), 1 cent an ounce, and a paper was passed through the mail at 1 cent a pound, but sample copies at 1 cent per four ounces. Mr. Beck said the committee had struck it out as general legislation, but he thought it was good, though in the wrong place.

After considerable further discussion as to the operation of the amendment, it was voted to accept the amendment by a vote of 18 to 15, so far as it related to the letter postage, laying the new-clerk provision over.

The house met at 6 o'clock in Thursday's session, and went into committee of the whole on the river and harbor bill.

One hour was consumed upon amendments to the Mississippi river, ending in the striking out of the entire clause, to be restored in the house.

The Hennepin canal clause, being referred to the committee, was voted down, and the house adjourned, and at 12 o'clock the session of the house adjourned.

Mr. Henderson, of Iowa, appealed from the decision, pending which the committee voted to strike the clause.

The house then proceeded to the consideration of the naval appropriation bill, and, after debate, a report was taken from 5 to 7 p.m., the evening session to be for the consideration of petitions.

On motion of Mr. Schuyler, of New York, it was ordered that when the house adjourns it be to meet to-day at the call of the speaker.

It was voted to adjourn until 9 o'clock adjourned, and at 9 o'clock adjourned until such time as it may be called to order by the speaker.

DESTRUCTION OF THE Marvin Safe Company—But Little Delay in Business Will Be Experienced.

New York, Feb. 20.—The Marvin Safe Company's factory, a huge eight-story building, embracing Nos. 524 and 525 West Thirty-seventh street, was destroyed by fire during last night, with all it contained.

How the outbreak occurred is a mystery that probably will be never fathomed. The walls of the building threatened surrounding tenements, which had to be cleared by the police. Hundreds of families were left homeless, however, and should properly have been considered by the committee on railways and canals, and upon this ground the rule that the clause was not in order was easily可得 from the speaker.

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SENATORS AND ALARM IN LONDON.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The government has called out the militia and suspended transfers of officers from the regular army to the reserves. This action of the government has been presented to the king, and the transfer of officers from the regular army to the militia is suspended.

Mr. Gladstone, who is holding a meeting of the members of his cabinet, has been informed that the king has been advised of the transfer of officers from the regular army to the militia.

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